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Thomas L. Evans letter to his father from Vicksburg, August 2, 1863

Thomas L. Evans

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Nicksburg Aug. 2^d 1865.

Dear Father,

This is Sabbath morning. The usual Sabbath morning ^{inspection} is over and I expect to have nothing more to do to day. I have got perfectly well again & never felt better than at present. The weather is about as it usually is at this season in Ohio farther than the nights are pleasanter. I have not seen a night this summer that I did not sleep cool enough under a blanket ~~over me~~. We have a pleasant breeze here along the river a greater part of the time and really & quite a bracing air in the evenings. Time is passing along very rapidly. The summer is already well spent and it seems that it is scarcely commenced. The last six months seem to me scarcely so many weeks. Time in the army does not pass as it does anywhere else one day is so much like another that when a week or a month is passed

it seems no more than one long
summer day. We go on an expedition
for three or four weeks, ^{such as we made out to Jackson} & when we return
it seems scarcely so many days. We go
into camp three or four weeks & it seems
we scarcely get our tents pitched & camp
arranged until the time is past.

Thus time passes with me in the army
one year of three has already passed
& the next two even should we be
needed in the service so long will
soon pass. But I think I think
the war can scarcely last much longer.
I think at least there is not much
more hard fighting for this western
army to do. when we consider that
the main rebel army of the west
has been captured & parolled & that there
is no prospect of their being exchanged
& that the greater portion of them
declare they will not fight the yankees
any more any how for it is no
use. I am glad to learn that our
army is to be filled up again this
fall that fact itself will do much to
discourage the rebels & I hope it will
also strengthen the eastern army
to such an extent that it will be

able to follow up its recent successes
and do such a work in the east
as this army has done in the west
and such a success would surely be followed
by a speedy and honorable peace. ~ ~ ~

Viewing things from here it seems
strange the people at home should be
so divided. It is not so here there is
not one man in ten who speaks the least
in favor of Wal. & not one in twenty
& I don't believe one in fifty who would
vote for him. His party receives nothing
but desecrations from the army.

You can scarcely imagine how mortifying it
is for the soldiers ^{to hear that their friends} at home ~~to~~ wear the
emblems of our foes yea even honor the
flag of the traitors, the flag we glory
to drag in the dust. The flag that
was reared by treason against our government.
How can people be so blind to the
right to their country & to the army
and to themselves as to oppose the
putting down of this rebellion by force.

Our army and government must
be successful then it cannot be otherwise
than these traitors will be remembered as
the traitors of '76. This war cannot last
always it must close then woe to him

who has opposed it by word or deed.

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We are under marching orders now for Katchie. We will likely move in a very few days perhaps tomorrow. As the whole army corps is to go it will ~~be~~ depend on when we can get boats to go on. I am well satisfied with the prospective move for my part it is said to be a healthier & pleasanter place than this and when a man is a thousand miles away from home a hundred or even a thousand more don't take him any farther away he is simply away from home anyhow.

It is not very healthy here now. Several of the boys have the diarrhoea & ague. Aquilla Turner has the Flux and is quite sick with it. I am somewhat uneasy about him. So many have fallen here of disease. John Epps (Orpha knows him) died on the 10th of July of Flux. Thirty of the boys who left Delaware with us have gone to their long home. Beside 12 have been discharged & some of these have also died.

I fear Hull Turner I fear is gone too as we can hear nothing of him. Shearer is getting better.

Write often for the only time that is long is when I am looking for a letter my love to Aunt Rachel.

Love to all. As ever your Son

Joseph & Chas. Evans

Thomas

Vicksburg, Aug. 2nd, 1863.

Dear Father:

This is Sabbath morning the usual Sabbath morning inspection is over and I expect to have nothing more to do to-day. I have got perfectly well again and never felt better than at present. The weather is about as it usually is in this season in Ohio farther than the nights are pleasant-er. I have not seen a night this summer that I did not sleep cool enough under a blanket. We have a pleasant breeze here along the river a greater part of the time and really quite a bracing air in the evenings. Time is passing along very rapidly. The summer is already well spent and it seems that it is scarcely commenced. The last six ^{months} ~~weeks~~ seem to me scarcely so many weeks. Time in the army does not pass as it does anywhere else - one day is so much like another that when a week or a month is passed, it seems no more than one long summer day. We go on an expedition for three or four weeks such as we made out to Jackson and when we returned, it seems scarcely so many days. We go into camp three or four weeks and it seems we scarcely get our tents pitched and camps arranged until the time is passed. Thus time passes with me in the army - one year of three has all ready passed and the next two even should ~~we~~ be needed in the service so long, will soon pass. But I think the war can scarcely last much longer. I think at least, there is not much more hard fighting for this western army to do when we consider that the main rebel army of the west has been captured and parolled and that there is no prospect of their being exchanged and that the greater portion of them declare they will not fight the Yankees any more anyhow for it is no use. I am glad to learn that our army is to be filled up again this Fall, that fact itself, will do much to discourage the rebels and I hope it will also strength the Eastern army to such an extent that

it will be able to follow up it's recent successes and do such a work in the East as this army has done in the West and such a success would surely be followed by a speedy and honorable peace.

Viewing things from here, it seems strange the people at home should be so divided, It is not so here, there is not one man in ten who speaks the least in favor of Val. and not one in twenty and I don't believe one in fifty who would vot for him. His party receives nothing but desecrations from the army. You can scarcely imagine how mortifying it is for the soldiers to hear that their friends at home wear the emblems of our foes. Yes, even honor the flag of the traitors - the flag we gloriously drag in the dust, the flag that was reared by treason by the Government. How can people be so blind to the right of their Country, to the army and to themselves as to oppose the putting down of this rebellion by force. Our army and Government must be successful then it cannot be otherwise than these traitors will be remember as the traitors of '76. This war cannot last always - it must closethen woe to him who has opposed it by word or deed.

We are under marching orders now for Natchez. We will likely move in a very few days, perhaps to-morrow as the whole army corps is to go it will depend on when we can get boats to go on. I am well satisfied with the prospective move for my part. It is said to be a healthier and pleasanter place than this and when a man is a thousand miles away from home, a hundred or even a thousand more, don't take him any farther away - he is simply away from home anyhow.

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Write often for the only time that is long is when I am looking for a letter. My love to Aunt Rachel. Love to all. As ever your son,

Thomas.

Joseph & Marg. Evans.

Aug. 2.

We drew two months pay yesterday. I shall send \$125 or \$150 home. Capt. Hamilton expects to go home in a day or two. He has not got his leave of absence yet but he is very severely afflicted and I think no doubt will get his leave in a day or two and I fear will not be able to return to the Co. again. If he comes, I will send my money with him \$125. He is also to get me a hand trunk and leave at C.S.Hamiltons which you can get and put those shirts in which I wrote to Morther to make for me, also my comfort like the one I brought with me last fall and such other things as you may wish to send me. Nothing comes amiss here. Put no eatables in it.

James H. Tanner of Dover and Elisha Dobbins of Pyhalia both of our Co. are home on furlough and will start back ~~East~~ about the 20th of this month. I hope you will get it ready to send by them but I need not give you such particular